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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re application of: Johnson, et al.

Attorney Docket No.: INVDP001

Application No.: 09/689,548

Examiner: Gordon, Brian R.

Filed: October 11, 2000

Group: 1743

Title: HYBRID VALVE APPARATUS AND
METHOD FOR FLUID HANDLING

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TO 1743
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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING
I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the
United States Postal Service as First Class Mail to: Commissioner for
Patents, Washington, DC 20231 on March 3, 2003.

Signed: Deborah Neill
Deborah Neill

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT
BEFORE FINAL ACTION OR NOTICE OF ALLOWANCE
(37 CFR §§ 1.56 AND 1.97(c))**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

The references listed in the attached PTO Form 1449, a copy of which is attached, may be material to examination of the above-identified patent application. Applicants submit this reference in compliance with their duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §§1.56 and 1.97. The Examiner is requested to make this citation of official record in this application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that a search has been made, that additional information material to the examination of this application does not exist, or that this reference indeed constitutes prior art.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed after the mailing date of the first Office Action on the merits, or after three months of the filing date of this application, whichever event occurred last, but it is believed before the mailing date of either: (i) a final action under §1.113 or (ii) a notice of allowance under §1.311, whichever occurs first.

Accompanying this Information Disclosure Statement is

a statement as specified in 37 CFR 1.97(e); or
 the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p).

[37 CFR §1.97(e) Statement, if relied upon]

The undersigned hereby states:

that each item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was first cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application no more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement; or
 that no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application, and to the knowledge of the person signing the certification after making reasonable inquiry, no item of information contained in the Information Disclosure Statement was known to any individual designated in § 1.56(c) more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement.

If fees are due, enclosed is our Check No. 6968 for \$180.00 in payment of the Information Disclosure Statement Fee. If it is determined that any additional fees are due, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge such fees to Deposit Account 500388 (Order No. INVDP001).

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



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PATENT

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Title: HYBRID VALVE APPARATUS AND
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TC 1700

CERTIFICATE OF MAILING

I hereby certify that this paper (along with any paper referred to as being attached or enclosed) is being deposited with the United States Postal Service on the date shown below with sufficient postage as first-class mail in an envelope addressed to the Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on March 3, 2003.

Signed: Deborah Neill
Deborah Neill

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT WITH STATEMENT
UNDER 37 CFR §§1.56 AND 1.97**

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Dear Sir:

The references listed in the attached PTO Form 1449, copies of which are enclosed, may be material to the examination of the above-identified patent application. These references were cited in a corresponding PCT application. A copy of the PCT Search Report, which was dated February 7, 2003, is enclosed herewith, as well. These references are submitted in compliance with the applicant's duty of disclosure pursuant to 37 CFR §§1.56 and 1.97. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to make these citations official record in this application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is not to be construed as a representation that additional information (material to the examination of this application) does not exist or that the enclosed reference(s) constitute prior art.

Statement under 37 CFR § 1.97(e)

The undersigned hereby states that the references enclosed herewith were cited in a communication from a foreign patent office in a counterpart foreign application not more than three months prior to the filing of the Information Disclosure Statement. (37 CFR 1.97(e)(1))

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that no fee is due in conjunction with the filing of this IDS. However, should the Commissioner determine that additional fees are required for filing the present Information Disclosure Statement, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any such fees to our deposit account number 500388 (Order No. INVDP001).

Respectfully submitted,
BEYER WEAVER & THOMAS, LLP



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Registration No. 36,988

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(510) 843-6200


Form 1449 (Modified)
**Information Disclosure
Statement By Applicant**

(Use Several Sheets if Necessary)

 Atty Docket No.
INVDP001
 Applicant:
Johnson, et al.
 Filing Date
October 11, 2000

 Application No.:
09/689,548

 Group
1743

TC 1700

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U.S. Patent Documents

Examiner Initial	No.	Patent No.	Date	Patentee	Class	Sub-class	Filing Date
BD	A	5,743,960	04/28/98	Tisone			07/26/96
	B	5,985,214	11/16/99	Stylli, et al.			05/16/97
	C	6,083,763	07/04/00	Balch			12/31/97
	D						
	E						
	F						
	G						

Foreign Patent or Published Foreign Patent Application

Examiner Initial	No.	Document No.	Publication Date	Country or Patent Office	Class	Sub-class	Translation	
							Yes	No
BD	H	EP 1197693A2	17/04/02	EP			X	
	I	WO 00/51736	08/09/00	PCT			X	
	J	WO 97/26539	24/07/97	PCT			X	
	K							
	L							

Other Documents

Examiner Initial	No.	Author, Title, Date, Place (e.g. Journal) of Publication
	M	
	N	
	O	
Examiner		Date Considered

Examiner: Initial citation considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.



Form 1449 (Modified)		Atty Docket No.	Application No.:	
		INVDP001	09/689,548	
Information Disclosure Statement By Applicant		Applicant:	TC 17 <small>MAR 12 2000</small> RECEIVED	
<small>(Use Several Sheets if Necessary)</small>		Johnson, et al.		
		Filing Date		Group
		October 11, 2000		1743

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U.S. Patent Documents

U.S. Patent Documents							
Examiner Initial	No.	Patent No.	Date	Patentee	Class	Sub-class	Filing Date
	A						
	B						
	C						
	D						
	E						
	F						
	G						

Foreign Patent or Published Foreign Patent Application

Information on Published Foreign Patent Application								
Examiner Initial	No.	Document No.	Publication Date	Country or Patent Office	Class	Sub-class	Translation	
							Yes	No
	H							
	I							
	J							
	K							
	L							

Other Documents

Other Documents		
Examiner Initial	No.	Author, Title, Date, Place (e.g. Journal) of Publication
BZ	M	Ilene Schneider, <i>Instrumentation – Doing More With Less – Discover the turnkey systems now streamlining the entire liquid handling process</i> , September 2002 – <u>Genomics & Proteomics</u>
	N	
	O	
Examiner	Date Considered	
<i>B-Z-P/H</i>	<i>8/5/03</i>	

Examiner: Initial citation considered. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.